

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 EA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /052 W

----- 082021

R 301324Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0539

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CH, FI

SUBJECT: PRC SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

REF: STATE 239319

1. KROGIUS OF MFA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT TOLD US SHIPPING
AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINLAND AND PRC WAS INITIALED IN PEKING
IN NOVEMBER 1975, TO BE SIGNED LATER IN HELSINKI IN
CONNECTION WITH A VISIT TO FINLAND BY PRC MINISTER RESPON-
SIBLE FOR SHIPPING. VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED,
AND SIGNATURE UNLIKELY UNTIL 1977.

2. LEGAL DEPARTMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE A COPY OF TEXT
OF THE JOINT SHIPPING AGREEMENT UNTIL SIGNED, AND WE DID
NOT PRESS REQUEST. KROGIUS SAID TEXT FOLLOWS VERY CLOSELY
THOSE SIGNED EARLIER BY PRC WITH SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS,
AMONG OTHERS, WITH "ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF A FEW WORDS."
HE STATED THAT RICHARD BANK (EB/TCA/MA) HAS A VERY GOOD
KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CONTENTS.

3. KROGIUS SAID SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIPPING AGREEMENT
IS LIKELY TO BE VERY SMALL, SINCE NAVIGATION BETWEEN
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THE TWO COUNTRIES IS PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT. HOWEVER,

THERE ARE CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WHICH ARE
IMPORTANT TO THOSE SHIOPWNERS WITH REGULAR OR FREQUENT
SHIPPING CONNECTIONS WITH PRC. AN INTERNAL PRC TAX THAT
IS NOT LEVIED ON SHIP OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PRC HAS
CONCLUDED SUCH AGREEMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE APPLIED TO
FINNISH SHIPS ONCE AGREEMENT SIGNED. FINLAND HAS NEVER
IMPOSED A SIMILAR TAX ON FOREIGN VESSELS.

VOTH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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